

Biodiversity Conservation Toolbox for Planners



Welcome! This toolbox is a collaborative effort of planners, state agencies, and the Washington Biodiversity Council, developed with the aim of putting biodiversity conservation information for Washington planners in one place. Planners provided input and supplied resources and tools. After the Council's mandate expired, the Department of Commerce, Growth Management Services, agreed to house the toolbox in keeping with its goal of providing resources to help local governments develop county-wide planning policies, comprehensive plans, and development regulations, including critical areas ordinances.

The Washington Biodiversity Council committed itself to helping support and foster local decision-making. In the *Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, the Council recognized that while the benefits derived from biodiversity resources may be regional and even international in scope, the control and management of the resources are often in the hands of local decision makers. Accordingly, it stresses the importance of incorporating biodiversity conservation into land use plans and development practices, particularly in areas with high biodiversity value.

Feedback is welcome—this is a work in progress. Please suggest tools or resources to add or provide ideas for improving the toolbox. A submission form is available on the Growth Management Services [Critical Areas topic page](#).

The Washington Biodiversity Council

The Washington Biodiversity Council was a public-private partnership chartered by executive order from 2004 through June 2010 and housed in the Recreation and Conservation Office. Council members included private landowners, agency natural resource managers, tribal representatives, and members of the education, business, and environmental communities. The Council was tasked by the Governor with crafting and guiding the *Washington Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*, a long-term vision and approach for conserving Washington's remarkable biological diversity for the benefit of all.

During its tenure, the Council:

- Defined conservation priorities through a mapping effort.
- Highlighted incentives for private landowners to protect biodiversity.
- Engaged citizen scientists and measured progress toward conservation goals.
- Assisted local governments with incorporating biodiversity stewardship practices into planning.
- Made scientific information available to decision makers and the public.
- Educated Washingtonians of all ages on the importance of biodiversity.
- Worked collaboratively with communities to enhance stewardship.

The important work of biodiversity conservation in Washington continues to be carried out by the Council's many partners.

WASHINGTON
BIODIVERSITY COUNCIL
CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | STEWARDSHIP

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Department of Commerce
Innovation is in our nature.



WASHINGTON STATE
**Recreation and
Conservation Office**

How to use the Toolbox

The spreadsheet is organized into six main categories. The tools draw on many sources:

Category ID:

- (REF) References** - Conservation priorities, species lists, and references on procedures, actions or strategies related to conservation planning.
- (GD) Guidance Documents** - Guidelines on ecologically sound planning for important habitats and species. Technical planning guidance for uses such as transportation and parks.
- (CS) Case Studies** - Real-life conservation planning examples from throughout the state of Washington.
- (PL) Policy Language** - Regulatory language and code provisions examples that encourage the protection of biodiversity.
- (D&M) Data and Maps** - Mapping programs, atlases, registries, and databases to assist with incorporating biodiversity protection into planning.
- (T&C) Trainings and Conferences** - Opportunities for planners learn about or gain skills in conservation planning.

The following information is supplied for each resource:

- **Geographic Region-** County, region, state, national or international relevance.
- **Name of Tool-** Title of the resource.
- **Tool Uses-** Critical Areas Ordinance updates, comprehensive planning, development regulations, ecosystem assessments, education, incentive programs, open space planning, permitting, SEPA reviews, shoreline planning, site planning and development, Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act planning, Shoreline Master Program updates, etc.
- **Tool Description-** A brief description of the resource.
- **Sponsoring Agency**
- **Author**
- **Year**
- **Tool Format**
- **Information Source-** Web link or other contact information.

Definitions of abbreviations are provided on the final page of the spreadsheet.

